

Republicans take Senate majority and eye unified power with Trump

By LISA MASCARO and
MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have taken control of the U.S. Senate and are fighting to keep their majority in the U.S. House, which would produce a full sweep of GOP power in Congress alongside President-elect Donald Trump in the White House. A unified Republican grip on Washington would set the course for Trump's agenda. Or if Democrats wrest control of the House, it would provide an almost certain backstop, with veto power over the White House. Trump, speaking early Wednesday at his election night party in Florida, said the results delivered an "unprecedented and powerful mandate" for Republicans. He called the Senate rout "incredible."



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Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks during a watch party on election night, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at the Marriott Marquis in Houston. Associated Press



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Republicans take Senate majority and eye unified power with Trump

Continued from Front

And he praised House Speaker Mike Johnson, who dashed from his own party in Louisiana to join Trump. "He's doing a terrific job," Trump said.

From the U.S. Capitol, Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell, privately a harsh Trump critic, called it a "hell of a good day."

Vote counting in some races could go on for days, and control of the House is too early to call.

The rally for Republicans started early on election night in West Virginia, when Jim Justice, the state's wealthy governor, flipped the seat held by retiring Sen. Joe Manchin. From there, the Republicans marched alongside Trump across the Senate map.

Republicans toppled Democrat Sen. Sherrod Brown in Ohio, the first incumbent senator to fall, with GOP luxury car dealer and blockchain entrepreneur Bernie Moreno. They chased Democrats in the "blue wall" states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where Vice President Kamala Harris strained to carry the party forward, though Democrats avoided a total wipeout as Elissa Slotkin won an open Senate seat in Michigan and Sen. Tammy Baldwin was reelected in Wisconsin.

Democratic efforts to oust firebrand Republicans Ted Cruz of Texas and Rick Scott of Florida collapsed. The unexpected battleground of Nebraska pushed Republicans over the top. Incumbent GOP Sen. Deb Fischer brushed back a surprisingly strong challenge from independent newcomer Dan Osborn.

In one of the most-watched Senate races, in Montana, Democrat Jon Tester, a popular three-term senator and "dirt farmer" in the fight of his political career, lost to Trump-backed Tim Sheehy, a wealthy former Navy SEAL, who made derogatory comments about Native Americans, a key Western state constituency.

All told, Senate Republicans have a chance



Ohio Republican Senate candidate Bernie Moreno during a watch party on election night, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in Westlake, Ohio, with his wife Bridget.

Associated Press

to scoop up a few more seats, potentially delivering their most robust majority in years — a coda to outgoing GOP Leader McConnell, who made a career charting a path to power, this time by recruiting high-wealth Republicans aligned with Trump.

He told reporters at a Capitol news conference that a Senate under Republican control would "control the guardrails" and prevent changes in Senate rules that would end the filibuster. McConnell declined to answer questions about his past stark criticism of Trump or about the prospects of potential nominees in a new administration. He also said he viewed the election results as a referendum on the Biden administration. "People were just not happy with this administration and the Democratic nominee was a part of it," McConnell said.

The fight for control of the House became a state-by-state slog, much of which unfolded far from the presidential race.

House races are focused in New York and California, where Democrats are trying to claw back some of the 10 or so seats where Republicans have made surprising gains in recent years. Other House races

are scattered around the country, with some of the most contentious in Maine, the "blue dot" around Omaha, Nebraska, and in Alaska.

Democratic House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said the House "remains very much in play."

To gain control of the House, Democrats need to flip four seats from Republicans, while holding all of their own, a tall task especially in congressional districts where Trump has won. It could come down to just a handful of seats, or as little as one, to determine House control.

Johnson voiced confidence, posting on X: "Republicans are poised to have unified government in the White House, Senate, and House."

Harris ignited enthusiasm for her party when Biden dropped out of the race, and she stepped in atop the ticket, a head-spinning development barely 100 days from the election. But Democrats watched their own hopes for a sweep of Washington fizzle.

Voters said the economy and immigration were the top issues facing the country, but the future of democracy was also a leading motivator for many Americans casting ballots

in the presidential election. AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, found a country mired in negativity and desperate for change as Americans faced a stark choice between Trump and Harris.

This is the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, when Trump sent a mob of his supporters to "fight like hell" against the 2020 election. Many Republicans in Congress voted against President Joe Biden's victory. Congress will again be called on next year to certify the 2024 election.

Even still, the election followed one of the most chaotic congressional sessions in modern times as the Republican-led House kicked out its speaker, Kevin McCarthy, threatened government shutdowns and had difficulty conducting the basic operations of governance.

Johnson has said Republicans in the House and Senate have been working on an "ambitious" 100-day agenda — cutting taxes, securing the U.S. border and taking a "blowtorch" to federal regulations — if they sweep the White House and Congress.

Trump himself has promised mass deportations and ret-

tribution on his perceived enemies.

Republicans want to push federal agencies out of Washington and restaff the government workforce, Johnson said, to bring the federal government "to heel."

Trump is "thinking big" about his legacy, Johnson said.

Several states will send history-makers to the new Congress. Voters elected two Black women to the Senate, Democrat Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and Democrat Angela Alsobrooks, who defeated Republican Larry Hogan, the former governor, in Maryland. Just three Black women have served in the Senate, and never before have two served at the same time.

And in New Jersey, Andy Kim became the first Korean American elected to the Senate. The seat opened when Bob Menendez resigned this year after his federal conviction on bribery charges.

In the House, candidate Sarah McBride, a Democratic state lawmaker from Delaware who is close to the Biden family, became the first openly transgender person elected to Congress. What's still unclear is who will lead the new Republican Senate, as longtime leader McConnell prepares to step down from the post.

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Republican, and Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who previously held that post, are the front-runners to replace McConnell in a secret-ballot election scheduled for when senators arrive in Washington next week.

Billions of dollars have been spent by the parties, and outside groups, on the narrow battleground for both the 435-member House and 100-member Senate.

If the two chambers do in fact flip party control, as is possible, it would be rare.

Records show that if Democrats take the House and Republicans take the Senate, it would be the first time that the chambers of Congress have both flipped to opposing political parties. □

Democrats hoped Harris would rescue them. On Wednesday, she called Trump to concede

By CHRIS MEGIERIAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kamala Harris called President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday to concede the election and congratulate him on his victory, according to a senior adviser to the vice president.

The aide, who declined to be identified discussing a private conversation, said Harris talked about the need for a peaceful transfer of power.

Harris, once viewed as a potential savior for the Democratic Party after Joe Biden's reelection campaign stalled, is reckoning with a profound rejection by American voters in this year's presidential election. She trailed in every battleground state to Trump, a man she described as an existential danger to the country's foundational institutions. And Trump appeared on track to win the popular vote for the first time in his three campaigns for the White House even after two impeachments, felony convictions and his attempt to overturn his previous election loss.

Harris planned to deliver a concession speech Wednesday at 4 p.m., her office announced. She'll speak at Howard University, her alma mater in Washington, where her supporters watched returns Tuesday night before



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

being sent home after midnight as Trump pulled ahead in battleground states.

Biden plans to address the election results on Thursday. The White House said he spoke with Harris and Trump on Wednesday, and he invited the president-elect to meet with him soon.

David Plouffe, a top Harris adviser, said campaign staffers "left it all on the field for their country."

"We dug out of a deep hole but not enough," he said. "A devastating loss."

In a bitter footnote for Harris, as the sitting vice president she is expected to oversee

Congress' ceremonial certification of the election.

It's the same role that Mike Pence played four years ago, when Trump directed his supporters to march on the U.S. Capitol. Although critics said the violent insurrection crystallized Trump's threat to American democracy, that ultimately did not dissuade voters from electing him again.

Harris became the Democratic candidate after Biden, who was already struggling to convince voters that he could serve as president until he was 86 years old, stumbled badly

in his June 27 debate with Trump.

He dropped out of the race on July 21 and endorsed his vice president, who swiftly unified the Democratic Party around her candidacy.

It was a remarkable twist of fate for Harris. Four years earlier, her own presidential campaign flamed out and revealed the political limitations of someone once dubbed "the female Barack Obama." Even though Biden chose Harris as his running mate, she languished in the role after taking office as the first woman, Black person or person of South

Asian descent to serve as vice president.

Some Democrats started writing her off when they pondered the party's future after Biden. But Harris found fresh purpose after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, and she became the White House's leading advocate for abortion rights.

Harris also made a more concerted effort to network with local politicians, business leaders and cultural figures, forging connections that could serve her down the road. The moment arrived sooner than she anticipated, and she was catapulted into the presidential race with Biden's departure only a month before the Democratic National Convention. Harris instantly reset the terms of the contest with Trump. She was 18 years younger and a former courtroom prosecutor going up against the first major presidential candidate convicted of crimes.

Her candidacy energized Democrats who feared they were destined for defeat with Biden at the top of the ticket.

But she also faced steep odds from the beginning. She inherited Biden's political operation with just 107 days until the end of the election, and she faced a restless electorate that was eager for change. □

Allison Greenfield, the law clerk disparaged by Donald Trump, is elected as a judge in Manhattan

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Allison Greenfield, the law clerk whom Donald Trump assailed with falsehoods during his civil fraud trial last year, has been elected as a New York City judge.

Greenfield, 38, was one of six candidates for six seats on Manhattan's civil court, which handles small claims and other lesser-stakes lawsuits. A local Democratic committee unanimously endorsed her candidacy in February, avoiding a primary and clearing the way for her to run unopposed in Tuesday's general election. As a principal law clerk to Judge Arthur Engoron, Greenfield was a frequent target of Trump and his lawyers during the former

president's civil fraud trial.

Trump made a disparaging social media post about Greenfield on the trial's second day, leading Engoron to impose a limited gag order barring participants in the case from smearing court staff.

Engoron fined Trump \$15,000 for twice violating the order and subsequently expanded it to include Trump's lawyers after they complained in court about Greenfield passing notes to Engoron.

They accused Engoron of letting Greenfield act as "a de facto co-judge," and questioned whether her political leanings were influencing what they perceived as a "demonstrable" anti-Trump bias.

Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said he felt like he was "fighting two adversaries." □



Judge Arthur Engoron, right, and principal law clerk Allison Greenfield sit on the bench during Donald Trump's civil business fraud trial at New York Supreme Court, Oct. 17, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

Mainers reject proposal to resurrect the state's original flag

By **DAVID SHARP and PAT-RICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Mainers were smitten by the state's original flag during the 2020 bicentennial. But the retro flag's popularity wasn't enough to convince voters to make it the state's official flag.

Residents voted Tuesday to retain the existing flag blue with the state seal instead of adopting a flag that tracks closely with the state's original flag — a simple pine tree and blue North Star.

Various designs based on the flag used from 1901 to 1909 gained popularity during the state's bicentennial in 2020, appearing on hats, sweatshirts and soon license plates, making it an unofficial flag of sorts.

That played a role in lawmakers' approval of a bill to let Mainers vote on replacing the current flag. The state's official seal on the current flag features a lumberjack, a sailor and the state's motto, "Dirigo," Latin for "I lead."

Last year, Minnesota adopted a new flag after crit-

ics decried the state's 1858 flag that featured a Native American riding off into the sunset while a white settler plows his field with his rifle leaning on a nearby stump. There was no such controversy in Maine.

The only criticism of Maine's current flag was that it's boring, since official state seals on blue backgrounds are featured in more than a dozen other states' flags. Sagadahoc County sheriff's race

Also in Maine, Sagadahoc County residents have voted to retain their current



This photo provided by the State of Maine/Secretary of State shows the winning design of a flag contest, announced by Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, released by the state of Maine, Aug. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

sheriff over a challenger who was accused of failing to take actions to disarm an Army reservist respon-

sible for killing 18 people in the state's deadliest mass shooting. □

Hundreds flee homes as powerful winds feed wildfires in Southern California

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER and STEFANIE DAZIO**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California was lashed by powerful winds Wednesday that fed one fast-moving wildfire near multimillion-dollar properties along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu while hundreds of residents fled another fire farther north as forecasters warned of the potential for "extreme and life-threatening" blazes.

Los Angeles County Fire Department crews scrambled to contain the wildfire near Malibu's Broad Beach as authorities shut down the famous seaside roadway. Residents were urged to shelter in place while aircraft dropped water on the 40-acre (16-hectare) Broad Fire. It was 15% contained and fire officials said two structures burned.

Meanwhile, northwest of Los Angeles, the rapidly expanding Mountain Fire prompted evacuation orders for multiple communities in an agricultural area near Santa Paula in southern Ventura County. Video footage from KTLA-TV showed horses trotting alongside evacuating vehicles and golf carts as people fled the blaze.

Andrew Dowd, a county fire spokesperson, said he did not have details of how many structures had been damaged.

"There are a number of



In this aerial still image provided by KABC-TV, shows Los Angeles County Fire Department crews scrambled to contain a small blaze fed by erratic wind gusts that pushed flames through dry brush near Broad Beach along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

homes that have been impacted by fire," he said. "It's a rapidly moving fire." Gov. Gavin Newsom's office, in a statement posted to the social platform X, said multiple state agencies are "all in close communication to coordinate and support needs in Ventura County."

Tens of thousands of people had their power shut off across the state as a precaution.

The National Weather Service office for Los Angeles amended its red flag warning for increased fire danger with a rare "particularly dangerous situation" label. With predicted gusts between 50 miles (80 kph) and 100 mph (160 mph) and humidity levels as low as 8%,

parts of Southern California could experience conditions ripe for "extreme and life-threatening" fire behavior into Thursday, the weather service said.

Officials in several counties urged residents to be on watch for fast-spreading blazes, power outages and downed trees amid the latest round of notorious Santa Ana winds.

"Those in canyon, mountain, and foothill communities should be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice," the LA County Office of Emergency Management said on X. Some canyon roads were closed as a precaution and fire departments positioned resources in areas prone to fires.

The Mountain Fire was mapped at just under 250 acres (100 hectares) around 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, and by 11:30 a.m. it was more than five times larger at over 2.3 square miles (6 square kilometers). The extreme wind conditions grounded fixed-wing aircraft because of "very dangerous" conditions caused by gusts topping 61 mph (98 kph), said weather service meteorologist Bryan Lewis. He said pilots could face turbulence that could bring a plane down, as well limited visibility from the massive smoke plume.

Several people were injured and taken to hospitals, the Ventura County Fire Department said. However, it was not immediate-

ly clear how they got hurt. The blaze crossed State Route 118 and spread to the Camarillo Heights neighborhood, prompting additional evacuations.

To the south in Orange County, fire officials said ash and debris were being kicked up from the Airport Fire, which tore through the area earlier this year due to high winds, but no active fires were reported there Wednesday. Gusts whipped through coastal cities, bringing down tree branches and toppling large trash bins.

Forecasters also issued red flag warnings until Thursday from California's central coast through the San Francisco Bay Area and into counties to the north.

Sustained winds of 30 mph (48 kph) are expected in many areas, with possible gusts topping 55 mph (88 kph) along mountaintops, according to the weather service office in San Francisco.

More than 20,000 customers in 17 Northern California counties were without electricity Wednesday morning after Pacific Gas & Electric shut off power to prevent its equipment from sparking fires amid dry and windy conditions.

Southern California Edison also preemptively shut off power for more than 46,000 customers, including more than 12,000 in Los Angeles County on Wednesday. □

European summit will focus on how to accommodate Trump during his second term as president

By RAF CASERT and JUSTIN SPIKE

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

Dozens of European leaders will be assessing a new global outlook on Thursday, during a one-day summit bound to center on the concerns of many and the jubilation of a few in the wake of the election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president that could have far-reaching consequences for the continent. During his election campaign, Trump has threatened anything from a trade war with Europe to a withdrawal of NATO commitments and a fundamental shift of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia — all issues that could have groundbreaking consequences for nations across Europe, especially the 27-nation European Union.

It was already beyond doubt that the transatlantic relationship would change after Tuesday's vote. But under a Democratic president, that was expected to be gradual. Based on Trump's own campaign promises, seismic changes may lie ahead.

And for the populist and hard-right forces within



Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto, rear left, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, rear right, attend a meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov at Yntymak Ordo State Residence in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

the EU, who have already opened fissures with the political establishment, the election of Trump reinforces their position.

For summit host and ardent Trump fan, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Wednesday was a day of celebration even if EU relations were extremely turbulent during Trump's first term, from 2017-2021.

"I see a brilliant victory,

perhaps the biggest comeback and giant struggle in Western political history," Orbán said. "For the world, it means the hope for peace." Serbia's populist leader Aleksandar Vučić, who will be another high-profile guest at Thursday's summit in Budapest, was equally enthusiastic.

"Serbia is committed to cooperation with the USA on stability, prosperity and

peace," Vučić said.

The EU had prepared for months for a potential return of Trump, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated him once his victory became clear.

She said that the EU and the United States "are more than just allies. We are bound by a true partnership between our people, uniting 800 million citizens."

"Let us work together on a transatlantic partnership that continues to deliver for our citizens. Millions of jobs and billions in trade and investment on each side of the Atlantic depend on the dynamism and stability of our economic relationship," she said.

Von der Leyen can only hope for better. Trump's administration slapped tariffs on EU steel and aluminum in 2018, based on the claim that foreign products, even if produced by American allies, were a threat to U.S. national security. Europeans and other allies retaliated with duties on U.S.-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items. The impact of the U.S. election result could be felt in Europe for years to come, on issues including the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as migration or climate change. The string of geopolitical conflicts "is putting peace, stability and prosperity at risk in our region," said the summit invitation letter to the leaders of the European Political Community, which unites almost 50 nations across Europe, barring Russia and Belarus. □

Record-high pollution sickens thousands in Pakistan's cultural capital of Lahore

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Record-high air pollution in Pakistan's Punjab province prompted authorities to close additional schools and keep government employees at home Wednesday, as doctors reported an increase in people seeking treatment for smog-related ailments.

Marriyum Aurangzeb, a senior minister in the Punjab province, urged residents to voluntarily wear face masks and avoid unnecessary travel, and said that "otherwise, the government will be forced into a complete lockdown."

Lahore, the provincial capital of 14 million people and Pakistan's cultural hub, remained the world's most polluted city on Wednesday with Air Quality Index readings of over 1,100.

Anything over 300 is considered hazardous to health.

Authorities earlier in the week shut down schools in Lahore. On Wednesday they closed schools in 18 surrounding districts.

Aurangzeb said 50% of government employees in Lahore were told to work from home until next week.

The pollution has been sending patients to hospitals and private clinics complaining of coughs or burning eyes.

"Tens of thousands of patients suffering from respiratory diseases were treated at hospitals and clinics in a week," said Salman Kazmi, vice president of the Pakistan Medical Association.

Kazmi said that you can see people coughing wherever you go in Lahore, but that people are still not wearing face masks to protect themselves from the pollution.

Authorities in the city already have banned barbecuing food without filters, as well as the use of motorized rickshaws and wedding halls must close by 10 p.m.

The government said it was also looking into methods to induce artificial rainfall to combat the pollution. □



Students wear mask and heading to their school as smog envelops the areas of Lahore, Pakistan, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

Jennifer González of Puerto Rico's pro-statehood party edges ahead in gubernatorial election

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Jennifer González of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party was leading polls early Wednesday in a historic gubernatorial election that could see her party secure a third consecutive term for the first time.

González had 39%, or 438,183 votes with 91% of precincts reporting, according to Puerto Rico's State Elections Commission.

Coming in second so far was Juan Dalmau, who ran for Puerto Rico's Independence Party and Citizen Victory Movement. He obtained 33% or 364,145 of votes, making him the first candidate from outside the two island's two main parties to finish second in Puerto Rico's general election. No winner has been certified, Jessica Padilla, the commission's alternate president, said at a news conference early Wednesday.

"There are still votes in process of being counted," she said.

While González claimed a win, Dalmau said his party



Jennifer González, Puerto Rico's New Progressive Party candidate for Governor, shows her ballot during general elections in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

would wait until every vote had been counted.

"This is the beginning of a glorious transformation of our country," he said late Tuesday. Thank you for helping me make history."

The Popular Democratic Party, a major party that

supports the island's status as a U.S. territory, was pushed into third place as its candidate Jesús Manuel Ortiz obtained 21% or 233,470 votes. Meanwhile, Javier Jiménez of Project Dignity, a conservative party, obtained 7% of the vote.

The winner will replace Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, who was defeated by González in an upset in a primary election that was held in June by their New Progressive Party. In the race to become Puerto Rico's new representative in U.S. Congress, Pablo José

Hernández of the Popular Democratic Party was leading. He obtained 46% of the vote compared with 35% for William Villafañe of the pro-statehood party, according to partial results.

Dashed hopes

Dalmau's strong showing was a sign of a growing body of voters who are giving up on the island's two established parties. A growing number of voters old and young have said they were tired of persistent corruption, chronic power outages and a lack of affordable housing, among other things.

Their search for new leaders has begun to loosen the hold that the New Progressive Party and the Popular Democratic Party had over Puerto Rico's politics for decades. Voters like Aisha Rodríguez Díaz, 37, said that Tuesday's election gave them hope that a third-party candidate would win soon.

"They've already made history," she said referring to the alliance between Puerto Rico's Independence Party and the Citizen Victory Movement. □

South Korea fights deepfake porn with tougher punishment and regulation

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea on Wednesday announced a package of steps to curb a surge in deepfake porn, saying it will toughen punishment for offenders, expand the use of undercover officers and impose greater regulations on social media platforms. Concerns about nonconsensual explicit video contents that were digitally manipulated deepened in South Korea after unconfirmed lists of schools with victims spread online in August. Terrified, many girls and women removed photos and videos from Instagram, Facebook and other social media accounts, while others held rallies calling for stronger steps against deepfake porn. President Yoon Suk Yeol

quickly confirmed the rapid spread of explicit deepfake contents and ordered officials to "root out these digital sexual crimes." Police are now on a seven-month special crackdown that is to continue until March 2025.

A task force said in a statement that the government has been working with lawmakers on revising laws to increase punishment for perpetrators involved in deepfake porn-related crimes.

It cited a recently amend-

ed law that for the first time makes acts of watching or possessing deepfake porn illegal and punishable with up to three years in prison. The maximum punishment for those who produce or distribute deepfake porn contents was increased from five to seven years in prison.

Police have so far detained 506 suspects this year, 411 of them aged between 10 and 19.

The task force said it'll push for undercover online investigations, even in cases when victims are adults. The law currently authorizes such methods only when victims are minors. The government also plans another revision that would allow authorities to confiscate profits made through deepfake porn businesses. The task force said it will

push to impose a fine on social media platforms more aggressively when they fail to prevent the spread of deepfake and other illegal contents. It said South Korea will plan to increase monitors on social media platforms to 26, from the current 12.

The task force will also expand mandatory educational programs on digital sex crimes at schools, and produce related public awareness videos with celebrities popular with teens and young people in their 20s.

Most suspected perpetrators in deepfake porn cases in South Korea are teenage boys. Observers say the boys target female friends, relatives and acquaintances also mostly minors as a prank, out of curiosity or misogyny. □



South Korean Kim Jong-moon, third from right, first vice minister of Government Policy Coordination, speaks during a briefing at the government complex in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassastraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-



playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provid-

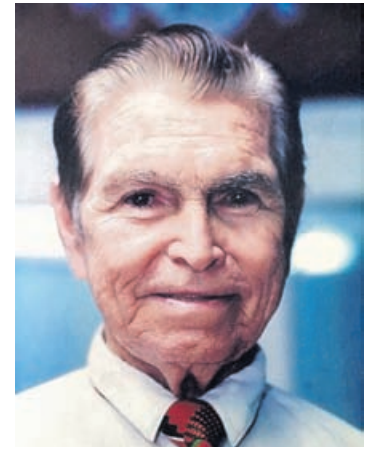
ed by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles. Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some

states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three dif-



ferent languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

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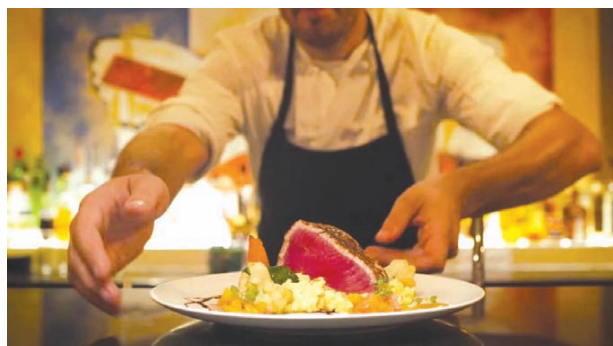
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arubapalmsrealtors.com





Papillon: Where Culinary Tradition Sparks with Timeless Elegance



Tucked away in the vibrant heart of the Village for over a decade and a half, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's a culinary adventure waiting to unfold. Picture this: a sanctuary where the flavors of the French Caribbean have danced harmoniously with classic French fare for the past 15 years, all set against the backdrop of a movie-inspired ambiance that's as enchanting as it is welcoming.

Located in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from hotels and local markets in the area, Papillon takes the famous story of a French man experiencing the flavors and culture of the Caribbean and incorporates these aspects of the Caribbean touch into their French culinary repertoire. Step through the doors of the newly-expanded Papillon, and you're not just stepping into a dining establishment; you're stepping into a world where sophistication embraces you like an old friend. The decor, a homage to the allure of the iconic film, casts a spell of intimacy and comfort, urging you to settle in and relish every moment. Here, dining isn't just about sustenance; it's about indulging in an experience meticulously crafted to ignite your

senses.

At the heart of Papillon's magic lies its menu – a symphony of flavors orchestrated by culinary artisans. Imagine savoring the decadent richness of foie gras or the sublime delicacy of frog legs, each dish a love letter to tradition infused with a dash of innovation. And oh, the spectacle of the Dover sole being expertly prepared table-side! It's culinary theater at its finest, leaving you spellbound with every bite. All this served with a backdrop of the Caribbean ambience, complete with live musical performances and an inviting and colorful twist to your dinner experience!

But wait, there's more! Enter the realm of the Chef's Table, a weekly extravaganza led by the maestro himself, Executive Chef Juan Ludeña. Prepare to be whisked away on a six-course odyssey, each dish meticulously paired with wines handpicked from the largest French wine selection on the island by the esteemed Maitre d' Michael Otten. It's a soirée reserved for those who truly appreciate the artistry of gastronomy – an exquisite symphony for the palate.

In essence, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's an oasis for epicurean explorers. It's where passion meets refinement, where every dish is a masterpiece waiting to be savored, and every moment is a celebration of the finer things in life. So if you're craving the warmth of French Caribbean delights, Papillon invites you to join them on an unforgettable journey for the senses. Bon appétit!



Papillon is located in Palm Beach in front of the Hilton Resort, and open from 5pm to 10pm. Early Bird takes places from 5pm to 7pm. For reservations or more information please contact the restaurant at +297 699 5400, e-mail them at info@papillonaruba.com or visit their website at papillonaruba.com □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Casa del Mar Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.



The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Henry & Mrs. Variety O'Toole from Abington, Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Play Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people
- Aruba is a relaxing destination
- Aruba's perfect weather
- Aruba's delicious food
- Aruba gives them peace of mind

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at the Aruba Beach Club Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:
Emerald Ambassador
Mrs. Elizabeth Barry from Miami, Florida, United

States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Aruba Beach Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba is home away from home.
- The feeling of safety & security on the island.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruba Open 2024 Attracts Worldwide Beach Tennis Talent and Thousands of Spectators with Record-Breaking Prize Pool and ITF Sand Series Status

The Aruba Open Beach Tennis Championships 2024 is set to return from November 10 to 17 at Bushiri Beach as the most anticipated beach tennis event on the International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tour. Attracting top players from over 40 countries, this year's tournament celebrates a new milestone as an ITF Sand Series 75 event featuring a record-breaking prize pool of US \$95,000, cementing Aruba's place on the world stage for beach tennis. The Sand Series includes the premier tournaments on the ITF Beach Tennis World Tour, designed to provide professional players with opportunities to gain more ranking points and greater prize money.

A Global Event and Record-Breaking Year for Beach Tennis in Aruba
For over a decade, the Aruba Open has become a landmark

event for the beach tennis world, drawing over 1,200 registered participants each year, including more than 500 local players who proudly represent the island. Friends and family members of the international players also travel to Aruba in droves to witness this high-caliber competition. During the championship weekend, over 10,000 spectators, comprised of locals and tourists alike, are expected to gather at the main stadium, creating a vibrant and electric atmosphere as top world-ranked players battle it out for various championship titles.

This year's tournament surpasses the 2023 edition in terms of registered players, further solidifying Aruba's reputation as a global beach tennis destination and positioning the Aruba Open as the sport's most celebrated event

worldwide.

An Unmatched Festival Vibe at the Aruba Open Village

The Aruba Open on Bushiri Beach offers fans an all-encompassing experience beyond the courts, with the Aruba Open Village delivering a unique festival atmosphere. Attendees will enjoy diverse dining options, shops, exclusive happy hours, and nightly live entertainment, creating a lively 8-day celebration.

Pan American Championships to Open the Aruba Open 2024

Adding to this year's excitement, Aruba has been selected to host the ITF Beach Tennis Pan American Championships, which will run from November 7th to 10th at the Beach Tennis Aruba Club at Eagle Resort. The event will culminate with the Pan Am finals at the Aruba Open's



Opening Night on Bushiri Beach, featuring finals in the Girls and Boys 18U and Men's and Women's Doubles categories.

For non-registered players of Aruba Open, tickets to enter the 8-day event site are available online at www.arubabeachtennisopen.com, Beach Tennis Aruba Club at Eagle Resort, and at the door of the event site on Bushiri Beach. □

For more information on Aruba Open 2024, visit www.ArubaBeachTennisOpen.com

The stories of "Compa Nanzi"



(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked

back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. "Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? "Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder

opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

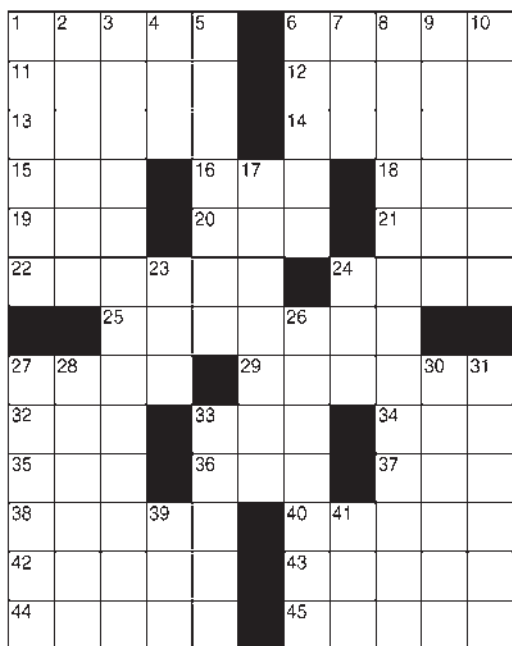
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 37 Some amount of
1 Detest
6 "The Merry Widow" composer
11 Baseball's Pee Wee
12 Give a speech
13 School group
14 Writer Carr
15 Vacuum's lack
16 Screening org.
18 Seine water
19 Bad-minton need
20 Gusher flow
21 Demand
22 On the beach
24 Pants part
25 Warned
27 Orange cover
29 Civil libertarian's concern
32 Wrap up
33 — Fernando
34 Slippery one
35 Derisive cry
36 "Gangnam Style" singer

DOWN

- 37 Some amount of
38 Eat away
40 Not wordy
42 Light unit
43 Writer Joyce
44 Rider's mount
45 Secret meeting
6 From the area
7 Pitcher's stat
8 In fine fettle
9 Comfortable
10 Chastise figuratively
17 Western peaks
23 Out-dated
24 Tapped item
26 Toddler
27 Luke and Leia, e.g.
28 Needing change
30 Past and future
31 Most crafty
33 Forgo frugality
39 Ruby of films
41 Attention



4-19

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

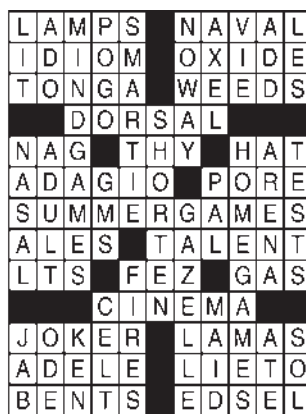
4-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

JHC YGF CJI MJDF OGFH YGF
UAER YB UFDJAH YAWGY AH J
LXC OJE DBUF SJAHQXK YGJH
YGF UAER AY YBBR YB

LKBEEBD. — JHJAE HAH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OUR WISDOM COMES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, AND OUR EXPERIENCE COMES FROM OUR FOOLISHNESS. — SACHA GUITRY



Yesterday's answer

Cruise ship Schedule: November 03 - 10 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	03	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
MON	04	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	07.00	16.00	C	1
TUE	05	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	07	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	08	CARNIVAL MIRACLE	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	09	ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	****	C	1
SUN	10	AIDAPERLA - Dept.	****	22.00	C	-
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

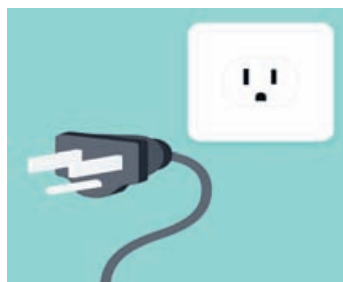
lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at the Bitcoin 2024 Conference, July 27, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Trump win ignites crypto frenzy that sends bitcoin to a record high

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The price of bitcoin hit a new high Wednesday and crypto-related shares rallied as investors bet that former President Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election will be a boon for cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin jumped nearly 8% in early trading, climbing above \$75,000 and smashing its previous record set in March. Other cryptocurrencies also soared, including ether, the world's second most popular cryptocurrency after bitcoin, which rallied 8%.

Another token, dogecoin, rocketed as much as 18%. It's the favorite cryptocurrency of billionaire Elon Musk, one of Trump's most prominent supporters.

Crypto-related shares outran the rest of the stock market. Coinbase, one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges, leaped 17%. Online brokerage Robinhood Markets, which offers crypto trading, soared 12% and MicroStrategy, which says it is the "largest corporate holder of bitcoin," jumped 10%.

Trump was previously a crypto skeptic but changed his mind and embraced cryptocurrencies ahead of the election. □



Classifieds

For sale

Property land Noord
Prime location
Washington 1000m2 (10.763 sq feet)
Price :\$350,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For sale

Lease land Eagle beach
Prime location (next gloria mall)
2630,92 m2 (53,820 sq feet)
Approved project 12 commercial
Units 6 ground floor 6 first floor
Price :\$ 750,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

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Savaneta near zee rover
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HTTA

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Or rent call the experts
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Private islands
1 BR WK # 43 room # 2132
Garden / ocean view
Price :\$6000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
1 BR WK # 43 room # 1401
18 weeks remain
Penthouse 14 th floor
Price : \$7000
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Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
1 BR WK # 44 and 45
Room # 706 ocean view
Contract expire 2052
Price :\$20 ,000 both units
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House For sale

Washington Noord
5 min drive from eagle beach
Palm beach and arashi beach
5 Bedroom 4 bath
Price : \$ 650,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Destinations points

2500
At :\$5 a points
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For sale

Eagle beach
O - Condo
2 BR 3 bath on the 3 rd floor
Price :\$ 980,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



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Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
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In Andrea Arnold's 'Bird,' a gritty fairy tale doesn't take flight

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

"Is it too real for ya?" blares in the background of Andrea Arnold's latest film, "Bird," a 12-year-old Bailey (Nykiya Adams) rides with her shirtless, tattoo-covered dad, Bug (Barry Keoghan), on his electric scooter past scenes of poverty in working-class Kent.

The song's question courtesy of the Irish post-punk band Fontaines D.C. is an acute one for "Bird." Arnold's films ("American Honey," "Fish Tank") are rigorous in their gritty naturalism. Her fiction films this is her first in eight years tend toward bleak, hand-held verité in rough-and-tumble real-world locations. Her last film, "Cow," documented a mother cow separated from her calf on a dairy farm. Arnold specializes in capturing souls, human and otherwise, in soulless environments. A dream of something more is tantalizing just out of reach. In "American Honey," peace comes to Star (Sasha Lane) only when she submerges underwater.

In "Bird," though, this sense of otherworldly possibility is made flesh, or at least



This image released by Mubi shows Franz Rogowski in a scene from "Bird."

feathery. After a confusing night, Bailey awakens in a field where she encounters a strange figure in a skirt (Franz Rogowski) who arrives, like Mary Poppins, with a gust of wind. His name, he says, is Bird. He has a soft sweetness that doesn't otherwise exist in Bailey's hardscrabble and chaotic life. She's skeptical of him at first, but he keeps lurking about, hovering gull-like on rooftops. He cranes his neck now and again like he's watching out for

Bailey. And he does watch out for her, helping Bailey through a hard coming of age: the abusive boyfriend (James Nelson-Joyce) of her mother (Jasmine Jobson); her half brother (Jason Buda) slipping into vigilante violence; her father marrying a new girlfriend.

The introduction of surrealism has the ironic effect of breaking the spell that has marked Arnold's best films. "Bird," which opens in theaters Friday, is, like the writer-director's vivid previ-

ous work, a movie only she could make. Arnold has described it as the hardest thing she's ever created, and it's easy to applaud her for grasping at something in "Bird" that ultimately is just out of reach. A resolutely realistic filmmaker turning to magical realism has the uncomfortable effect of making the whole movie, not just the Rogowski bits, feel inauthentic. Instead of being "too real for ya," "Bird," with its in-your-face poverty and narrative

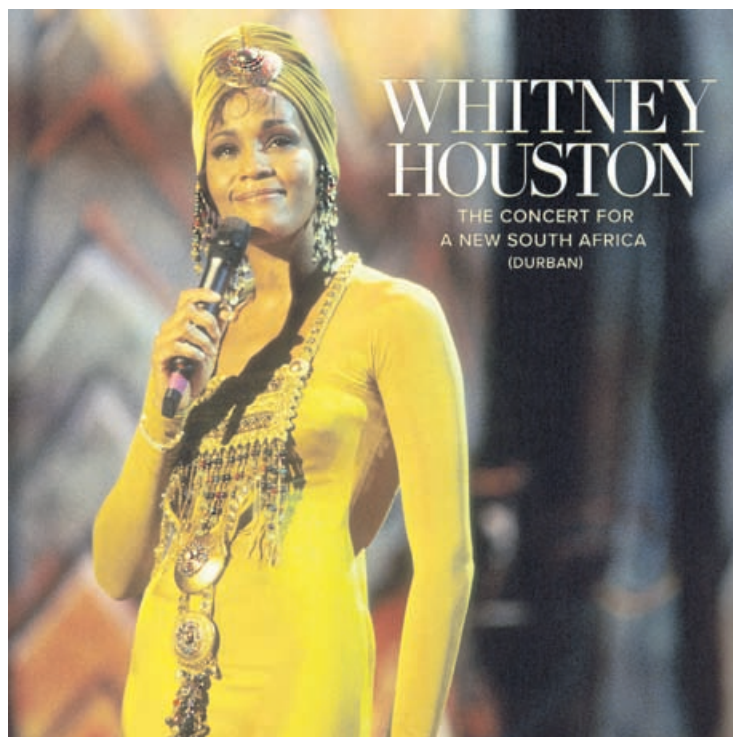
extremes, never feels particularly real at all.

The most incongruous parts of "Bird," though, might not be the mysterious avian friend. (Rogowski, a compelling performer, only ever feels half in the movie, as if "Bird" can't quite commit to him being there, either.) Keoghan is a reliably arresting actor who here feels out of place. He doesn't seem even vaguely fatherly, and while that might be part of the point, too many other things about Bug feel more performative than genuine. There's his scheme to use hallucinogenic slime from a toad to pay for his wedding, for starters. Add in some karaoke scenes and the sensation creeps in that "Bird" is being less compelled by its own story than it is by a pursuit of Arnold's previous style.

"Bird" may go down as a rare miss for Arnold but you can still see the keenness of her eye and the nimbleness of her camera, with her regular cinematographer Robbie Ryan. And that's true never so much as when the camera is on Adams, a talent, whose melancholy eyes say more than all the theatrics around her. □

Associated Press

Whitney Houston is some singer on live 'The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)'



This cover image released by Sony Legacy Recordings shows "The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)" by Whitney Houston.

Associated Press

By **STEVEN WINE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Find your strength in love," Whitney Houston sings near the end of a new live album, "The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)." She spends a full minute delivering those five syllables.

The song is "Greatest Love of All." At the start of the final line, Houston darts from note to note. On the word "strength," her amazing alto blooms, climbs and adds vibrato. When she reaches the word "love," she playfully skips through several notes and lets the last one linger, the power of its beauty matching the message.

Houston was some singer, and that's reaffirmed by "The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)." Sadly, the album also shows how the pop diva's incomparable talent was misspent before she died in 2012 at the age of 48.

The album will be out Friday, following the limited theatrical release of a film commemorating the 30th anniversary of Houston's three 1994 concerts in South Africa in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

They celebrated a newly unified nation following apartheid and the election of Nelson Mandela as president.

This album captures the first, held in Durban on Nov. 8, 1994. It is also Houston's first ever live concert album.

"Never have I felt so much love," Houston tells the stadium crowd.

Ten of the digital album's 21 songs (there are 24 tracks total, including an intro and three versions of the same song, which include the live track, a previously unreleased studio recording and a remix) feature titles with the word "love" or some variation, and huge hits are sprinkled throughout the set.

They include "I Will Always Love You," "How Will I Know" and "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)," all fun to hear in such a festive setting.

Alas, the scale of the event only amplifies Houston's tendency to over-sing. Her delivery seems intended for the top row of the stadium, which is understandable but exhausting when listening through earbuds. Maybe you had to be there. □

Calling Soto 'Mona Lisa of the museum,' Boras indicates client may try to top Ohtani's record \$700M

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) —

Agent Scott Boras indicated Juan Soto may be seeking to top Shohei Ohtani's record \$700 million contract because he is three years younger than the Japanese two-way star was when he reached his deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Boras gave a pun-filled, 48-minute assessment of the market at the general managers meetings on Wednesday, calling Soto "the Mona Lisa of the museum." Boras said only a handful of players have matched Soto's accomplishments at age 26, mentioning Willie Mays, Hank Aaron and Ted Williams, and boasted "he has literally 15 years more of his prime to offer."

"You're talking about a business opportunity where you can make literally billions of dollars by acquiring somebody," Boras said. "You can really see that owners, general managers, that they're kind of called upon to be championship magicians. ... It's hard to do, to put together that magic of a championship run, but behind every great magician obviously is the



New York Yankees' Juan Soto speaks during media day for the baseball World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, in Los Angeles.

magic Juan."

Ohtani agreed to his 10-year contract late last year and helped lead the team to its second World Series title in five years. The deal contains \$680 million in deferred money payable from 2034-43, reducing its average annual value for purposes of baseball's luxury tax to approximately \$46.08 million.

"I don't think Ohtani has much to do with Juan Soto,

at all," Boras said. "It's not something we discuss or consider. Juan Soto is he's in an age category that separates him from all." He wouldn't publicly discuss specifics of what Soto is seeking.

"I'm not going to talk about dollars and cents. That's something we'll take care of with the clubs," Boras said.

He dismissed the idea of Soto accepting deferred

money similar to Ohtani.

"I don't think that tax considerations are the focal point when you're talking about a business opportunity where you can make literally billions of dollars by acquiring somebody," he said.

Boras sprinkled in attempts at humor when discussing several of his top free agents:

First baseman Pete Alonso, nicknamed the Polar Bear:

"We hear a lot about the bear market for power-hitting first baseman and for Pete's sake, it's the polar opposite."

Pitcher Corbin Burnes: "He continues to be a Corbin copy of his previous seasons."

Pitcher Blake Snell: "There's no doubt that the Snelling salts have created a lot of whiffs."

Third baseman Alex Bregman: "He's provided the Astros with an infusion of championship blood. I'd say everything about him is AB positive."

Soto was traded from Washington to San Diego in 2022 after turning down a \$440 million, 15-year offer. He was dealt to the New York Yankees last December and hit .288 with 41 homers, 109 RBIs and 128 runs, hitting second in the batting order ahead of Aaron Judge. The Yankees want to retain Soto after he helped them reach the World Series for the first time since 2009.

Soto is expected to be pursued by the New York Mets and billionaire owner Steve Cohen. "The Mets are obviously trying to get to their goal, which is winning a world championship," Boras said. □

OMG hits Cooperstown as Mets' home run sign will get Hall of Fame display

By **MIKE FITZPATRICK**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The spirit of "OMG" is coming to Cooperstown.

Fresh off their exuberant run to the National League Championship Series last month, the New York Mets donated to the Baseball Hall of Fame one of those blue-and-orange OMG signs players often hoisted to accompany happy moments throughout the season.

The particular sign that was gifted, used by the pitching staff during dugout celebrations, arrived at the Museum and will soon go on display in the Your Team Today exhibit to mark "the excitement of the Mets' 2024 season," the Hall of Fame announced Tuesday.

It will remain part of the Museum's permanent collection.

"OMG" is the hit song by Mets infielder Jose Iglesias performed under the stage

name Candelita that became ubiquitous at Citi Field as a team anthem this year.

The signs, created by local artist and life-long Mets fan Jerome McCroy, became familiar to baseball fans all over the country as the wild-card Mets advanced through the playoffs.

They fell two wins short of a pennant when they were eliminated by the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 6 of the NLCS.

When putting together its 2024 postseason collection, the Hall of Fame asked the Mets if they might bestow one of the signs to the Museum.

In turn, the team asked Iglesias and pitcher Luis Severino clubhouse keepers of the signs and they gladly agreed.

A different OMG sign used by hitters to celebrate big swings will ultimately be displayed in the Mets' Hall of Fame at Citi Field, the team said. □



New York Mets second baseman Jose Iglesias celebrates on the field after the Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 4 of the National League baseball playoff series, Oct. 9, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

Which move is better when down 1 late? Kick the extra point or go for 2?



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba, right, catches a touchdown pass against Los Angeles Rams cornerback Darious Williams, left, and cornerback Cobie Durant (14) during the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Whenever a team is trailing by seven points late in a game and driving, the talk quickly turns to whether it will

go for 2 and the win if it happens to score a touchdown. Tampa Bay, New England and Seattle all opted against it in Week 9 and ended up as overtime losers.

The situations weren't entirely identical, with the Seahawks scoring with 51 seconds left, the Patriots on the final play with an exhausted Drake Maye and the Buccaneers with 27 seconds left and Patrick Mahomes on the other side. But the decisions and the outcomes were the same. Were those necessarily bad decisions?

The data says maybe not, with teams opting to kick the extra point in the final minute of regulation having a slightly higher winning percentage than teams that go for 2 historically. According to numbers tracked by Sportradar back to 2000, teams that attempted the extra point have a 37-49-2 (.432) record in those scenarios even after the three losses this week.

That includes two defeats

when the kicker missed the extra point, 10 more losses when the opposing team scored before the end of regulation and six wins when the team got the ball back and scored — with five of those following turnovers. Teams that tried for 2 had a 10-15 (.400) record, having made 12 of the 2-point tries. But two of those makes led to losses when the opposing team drove for a late field goal — including a game in 2019 when the Bears converted a fourth down after giving up the go-ahead 2-point try to Denver on the way to kicking a game-winning field goal. Complicating the decision this year is that teams are converting 2-point tries at a record-low rate. From 2010-23, making the 2-point try had been essentially a coin-flip proposition, with teams con-

verting 48.7% of tries. That has dropped to 32.4% during the first half of this season.

Streaking Chiefs

Kansas City's overtime victory against Tampa Bay delivered another tight win to a Chiefs team that just seems to have a knack for pulling out nail-biters.

The Chiefs improved to 8-0, becoming the sixth Super Bowl champion to start the following season with eight straight wins — with six of those victories coming by seven points or fewer.

The Chiefs are the 41st team overall to start a season 8-0 and their average margin of victory of 7.0 points per game is the lowest of any of those teams, beating out the 2006 Colts, who were at 7.4 points per game on the way to winning it all.

Kansas City has won 14 straight since a Christmas loss to Las Vegas last year for the longest NFL winning streak since Carolina began the 2015 campaign with a 14-0 record. A win on Sunday against Denver would give the Chiefs the first 15-game streak since Green Bay won 19 in a row from 2010-11.

Winning close games is nothing new for Mahomes, who has a 49-12 (.712) career record in the regular season and playoffs in games decided by seven points or fewer. Only Daryle Lamonica has a better win percentage (.771) among quarterbacks who have started in at least 30 close games.

Perfection

When it comes to "perfect" passer ratings, Lamar Jackson now stands alone. Jackson completed 16 of 19 passes for 280 yards, three TDs and no interceptions in Baltimore's win over Denver on Sunday to record his fourth career game with the highest attainable passer rating of 158.3. Jackson has the most career regular-season games with at least 15 attempts and a perfect rating, having also done it once last season and twice in his first full season as a starter in 2019.

Four other QBs have done it three times: Peyton Manning, Kurt Warner, Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger. Manning also had a fourth in the playoffs, doing it in a 2003 wild-card win over Denver. □



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